

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 7, and 8, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim1 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus comprising:
judgment means for judging a color of an image for each region having a predetermined size in an image superposed with noise;
determination means for determining a parameter for a noise removal process in correspondence with the color determined by said judgment means; [[and]]
control means for controlling execution of the noise removal process in accordance with the parameter determined by said determination means; and
segmentation means for, when the image for each region having the predetermined size contains an edge between different colors, segmenting the image into images having a size smaller than the predetermined size.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination means determines information indicating a size of a region [[which]] that is to undergo the noise removal process, and also determines parameters used in a filtering process.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination means determines information indicating a size of a region ~~[[which]]~~ that is to undergo the noise removal process, and also determines parameters used in a noise distribution method.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls execution of a process as one or a combination of a noise reduction process using a low-pass filter, a noise reduction process using a noise distribution method, and a noise reduction process using a median filter.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image processing method comprising:
a judgment step of judging a color of an image for each region having a predetermined size in an image superposed with noise;
a determination step of determining a parameter for a noise removal process in correspondence with the color determined in the judgment step; ~~[[and]]~~
a control step of controlling execution of the noise removal process in accordance with the parameter determined in the determination step; and
a segmentation step of, when the image for each region having the predetermined size contains an edge between different colors, segmenting the image into images having a size smaller than the predetermined size.

Claims 7 and 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program ~~of claim 7~~ for causing a computer to function as an image processing apparatus according to claim 1.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program ~~of claim 8~~ for causing a computer to perform a method according to claim 6.